

Heavy Lift Replacement (HLR) Program

Description

The CH-53E Super Stallion, which was used extensively in Operation Enduring Freedom, is a three-engine, long-range, heavy-lift helicopter that is key to the assault support function of Marine Aviation. The current fleet of aircraft will reach the end of its service life during this decade. A comprehensive upgrade is required to effectively meet Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and joint warfighting requirements over the next 25 years. The upgrade focuses on reliability, maintainability, cost of ownership, and performance.

The Heavy Lift Replacement (HLR) program, formerly known as the CH-53X program, is the solution to maintain the Super Stallion as the premier heavy-lift aircraft beyond the year 2025. To properly and cost-effectively support sea-based Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW) for the Marine Corps in the 21st century, the upgraded CH-53 will deliver increased range and payload, reduced operations and support costs, increased commonality with other assault support platforms, and digital interoperability.

Operational Impact

The HLR program will improve operational capabilities and reduce life-cycle costs. Commonality between other Marine Corps aircraft in terms of engines and

avionics will greatly enhance the maintainability and deployability of the aircraft within the Air Combat Element (ACE). The HLR will vastly improve the ability of the MAGTF and Joint Task Force to project and sustain forces ashore from a sea-based center of operations in support of EMW. The performance improvements will enable the vertical insertion of two combat-loaded High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), one armored vehicle, or three 9,000-lb. sustainment loads to three separate landing zones. The reliability, maintainability, and cost of ownership improvements will allow all of this to happen more efficiently and at a lower cost.

Program Status

The Operational Requirements Document (ORD) completed joint staffing and was signed in December 2004. When the Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) was completed in September 2003, it was determined that building a new airframe was the most cost effective course of action.

Procurement Profile: FY 05 FY 06

Quantity: 0 0

Developer/Manufacturer:

CH-53E:

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Stratford, CT

HLR:

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Stratford, CT